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LABOR PRODUCTIVITY LOW IN CONSTRUCTION TRUSTS;
USE OF REINFORCED CONCRETE INCREASES

The productive capacity of installations built by the Ministry of Construction of Heavy Industry Enterprises in 1949 is to surpass the 1948 constructed capacity by 160 percent in pig iron, 28 percent in steel, 106 percent in rolled iron and 45 percent in coke.

Figures show that many construction enterprises are not reaching the 40-percent increase in labor productivity set for 1950. Per-worker output fell short of the annual norm in a number of basic trades in 1948 and during the first quarter of 1949. In Glavtsentrostroy (Main Administration for Construction of Heavy Industry Enterprises in the Central Region), concrete workers averaged only 66 percent, stone masons 70 percent, and plasters 89 percent of their 1948 planned output. The norms in these trades are obviously not too high since the "Vladimirpromstroy," "Sevuralt'yazhstroy," "Uralt'yazhstroy," and "Kazmed'metallurgstroy" trusts all met or exceeded their annual norms in these trades.

In Glavspetstroy (Main Administration for Special Construction), 43 out of 152 excavator brigades and 20 out of 54 scraper brigades met their 1948 norms.

The "Soyuzteplotroy" Trust has improved its methods of laying refractory materials. At the Zaporozhstal' Plant, for instance, the time required to line an open-hearth furnace with firebrick was cut from 48 calendar days on the first furnace to 27 days on the sixth. The productivity per worker per shift has thus increased from 0.92 tons to 1.4 tons.

During 1948 alone, the Ministry of Construction of Heavy Industry Enterprises completed more than 25 million cubic meters of earthwork, 2.6 million cubic meters of concrete and mortar pouring, 28 million square meters of painting and plastering, laid over 1.8 million cubic meters of brick and erected 500,000 tons of metal structures.

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In 1949 the level of mechanization in trusts of the Ministry must be raised to 75 percent in excavation, 50 - 55 percent in plastering, 75 percent in cement pouring and 95 percent in erection of metal structures.

Only 27 - 50 percent of all earthwork done by the "Dzerzhinskpromstroy," "Vladimirpromstroy," "Moskokstroy," and "Lipetskstroy" trusts was mechanized during 1948.

Even the "Soyuzekskavatsiya" Trust, which is entrusted with the excavation work for the majority of new construction and which has in its pool almost half the excavation equipment in the Ministry, has been unable to meet its obligations. Only 68.5 percent of its equipment was used in 1948; its per-bucket earthwork norm was 18 percent short of plan, and only 53,800 of the planned 69,500 machine shifts were worked. By ignoring the transport of dirt by rail, the trust wasted hundreds of thousands of man-days and fell 3 million cubic meters short of planned excavation volume.

The "Soyuzekskavatsiya" Trust must complete 20 million cubic meters of earthwork in 1949.

Packaging of materials for transport must be pushed this year. The "Magnitostroy," "Chelyabinskpromstroy," and "Vladimirpromstroy" trusts have had great success with packaged materials, particularly wall materials, 60 - 70 percent of which have been moved in containers. By the end of 1949, all trusts of the Ministry are to be carrying 80 percent of all bricks and slag blocks in containers. The annual average should be 50 percent of all wall materials carried in containers.

The following figures are given in refutation of the charges made by some scientific workers that the Ministry of Construction of Heavy Industry Enterprises has been making inadequate use of reinforced concrete: In 1946, 690,000 cubic meters were used; in 1947, 760,000 cubic meters; 1948, 1.4 million cubic meters. In the peak prewar year, 1940, the People's Commissariat of Construction used 1.6 million cubic meters. In 1949, the Ministry will use 2 million cubic meters of reinforced concrete.

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